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STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

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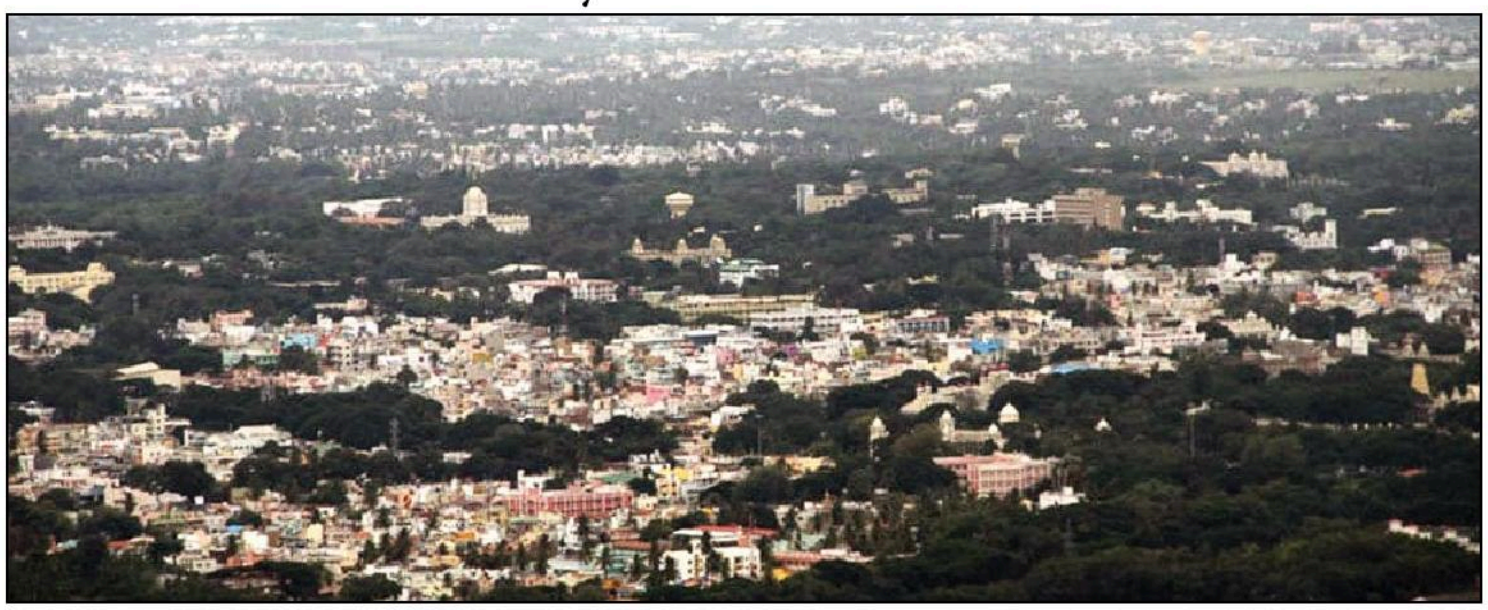
INFECTION
Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub
Cover nose and mouth when coughing with tissue or flexed elbow
Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
SOUTHERN STAR
MYSURU

Pay Property Tax till July end ...but no clarity on rebate

- Cash counters at 9 MCC Zonal Offices kept open from May 5
- Citizens can pay taxes by following social distancing norms
- Cash-strapped Karnataka Government to introduce Akrama-Sakrama Scheme in Mysuru too



Mysuru, May 8 (RK&BCT)- Providing relief to the tax-payers of Mysuru City Corporation (MCC), Urban Development Minister B.A. Basavaraj (Byrathi Basavaraj) yesterday said that the State Government has extended the deadline to pay Property Tax by three months within the MCC limits.

The Minister made this announcement at a meeting held at the Old Council Hall of the MCC, where Mysuru's COVID preparation, tasks, control measures and other issues were discussed and reviewed. The Minister also took stock of the development works coming under Mysuru city limits including drinking water.

The meeting was attended by Mysuru District Minister S.T. Somashekar, MP Pratap Simha, MLAs S.A. Ramdas, L. Nagendra and G.T. Devegowda, Mayor Tasneem, Deputy Mayor Sridhar and officers including Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar and MCC Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde.

As the media was not allowed inside the meeting, Byrathi Basavaraj later told reporters that all activities including tax payment had come to a grinding halt due to the lockdown and people are facing hardship due to lack of income. "Keeping this in mind, the Government has decided to give three-month (till July 31) time to pay property taxes, water bills and trade licence fees," he said but did not mention anything about the rebate extended to early tax-payers.

(See TAX on page 6)

MUDA to form six new layouts shortly: Minister

Urban Development Minister B.A. Basavaraj

Mysuru, May 8 (YDS&DM)- Urban Development Minister B.A. Basavaraj on Thursday said that a decision on forming six new layouts in the city will be taken soon.

The proposed layouts are Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar Nagar (36 acres), Swarna Jayanti Nagar (75 acres), Lal Bahadur Shastri Nagar Second Stage (264 acres), Lalitadrinagar Third Stage (108 acres), Shantaveri Gopalagowda Nagar Second Stage (329 acres) and R.T.Nagar Second Stage (185 acres).

The Minister was speaking during the MUDA meeting at MUDA Hall here yesterday in which District Minister S.T. Somasekhar too took part.

Basavaraj received inputs from officials regarding the projects being taken up and the financial status of MUDA.

During the course of the meeting, MP Pratap Simha, MLAs L. Nagendra, G.T. Devegowda and S.A. Ramdas sought to know the status of the layouts.

(See MUDA on page 6)

Petty fight leads to one murder and one revenge killing

- Two dead; four land up in jail
- All of them in their twenties

Mysuru, May 8 (RK,KS&BCT)- In a case of revenge murder after a 23-year-old youth was stabbed to death in a drunken brawl over petty reasons by two of his friends, the victim's friends avenged the killing of their friend by committing another murder.

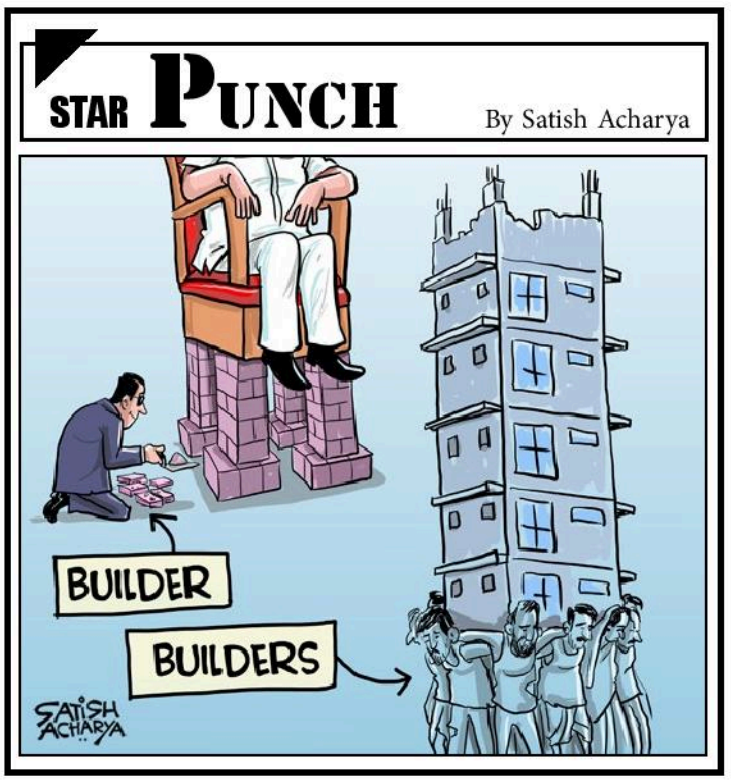
This incident was reported at Kyathamaranahalli in city last evening after two youths Irfan Khan and Mahendra allegedly stabbed 22-year-old Abhishek. They were avenging the murder of Satish who was allegedly murdered by Madhu and Kiran in a drunken stupor over an argument over a petty issue. Abhishek was Kiran's brother.

Satish *Abhishek*

Satish was murdered on Monday night. The two murders have sparked fears of a gang war and the Police have stepped up security in the areas of Kyathamaranahalli and surrounding localities, considered as sensitive.

After allegedly killing Abhishek, Irfan Khan and Mahendra called up the Police and informed them about the crime. Udayagiri Police told 'Star of Mysore' that Irfan Khan and Mahendra called a Constable attached to Crime Branch of Udayagiri Police Station and told him that they had killed Abhishek to avenge their friend Satish's murder.

(See MURDER on page 6)



Unkempt plot gives jitters
to residents at Gokulam 3rd Stage

The vacant site in Gokulam 3rd Stage, 4th Main. Picture right shows a snake seen slithering in the vacant site.

Wooden logs stored opposite to the house which is attracting rodents and snakes.

Mysuru, May 8 (KS)- Residents of Gokulam 3rd Stage, 4th Main in city are living in constant anxiety since years due to a vacant site next to their house that is filled with overgrown bushes and weeds which has become a breeding place for mosquitoes and a safe haven for snakes, rodents, scorpions and other pests. As the vacant plot is filled with weeds and bushes, it may also become a perfect place for thieves to hide.

An elderly couple living next to the vacant site is living in constant fear as a few snakes had entered their house recently. "I am hoping that the owner of this vacant site would be a responsible neighbour and get the site cleaned," they said.

They said that the vacant site is full of garbage and overgrown bushes and weeds resulting in a lot of insects, rodents and snakes making the place their home. Also, wooden logs are stored opposite their house since many months allowing rats and snakes to sneak into it and is also creating lot of problems to the residents of the lane.

They said that the sites were allotted in 1973 and the said vacant site has changed many hands till now and the present owner has neither constructed a house nor has got the plot cleaned periodically.

The residents have urged the authorities concerned to take steps to get the vacant site cleaned at the earliest and also to catch the snakes and rehabilitate them in their habitat away from the residential area.

Garbage issues surface
following lockdown relaxation

A cow seen feeding on the garbage dumped on Dhanvantri Road.

Mysuru, May 8 (SBD&KS)- Mysuru city, which was clean and tidy following lockdown, is now facing garbage issues following relaxation of lockdown rules. The garbage generation in the city had dropped following the lockdown to tame the spread of Coronavirus.

Though Mysuru City is still in the Red Zone, the District Administration has partially relaxed the lockdown rules on instruction from the Government. Apart from major commercial establishments, most shops have been permitted to open and conduct business till 7 pm and almost all hotels have begun providing parcel service. Liquor shops too are doing good business and city roads are buzzing with vehicles. All these have resulted in generation of garbage which is strewn on roads.

Most of the shops that were closed for nearly 40 days following lockdown are now being cleaned and the waste is being dumped on roadsides especially plastic waste.

Added to this, garbage bins that were installed on roadsides have gone missing and stray animals, in search of food are scattering the garbage on roads. Though pourakarmikas clean in the mornings, more garbage is being dumped on the roadsides which remains there till the next morning.

It looks like the public, who are maintaining social distancing, wearing face mask and using santiser to prevent the spread of Coronavirus have forgotten to maintain cleanliness which is also very essential in the prevention of the spread of the virus. Even the civic body which is busy imposing fines on those for not wearing face mask, spitting on roads etc., is not bothered about garbage now.

The MCC Environmental Engineers, who seize tonnes of plastic materials that are banned for usage have not planned to control the source of its generation, which has resulted in such wastes increasing day-by-day.

Among the 91 commercial streets that have been given permission to conduct business, Dhanvantri Road is one of them and when one enters the road, it is plastic garbage that greets them. The public have urged the civic officials to get the garbage cleared and impose penalty on those who are found dumping garbage indiscriminately.

CESC suffers Rs.50 lakh loss due to Sunday's downpour

Mysuru, May 8 (MK&DM)- The heavy rains accompanied by strong winds late on Sunday night has wreaked havoc in the city, with Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC) suffering huge losses to the extent of Rs.50 lakh.

Nearly 200 electric poles were uprooted, 14 power transformers, overhead power cables totally running upto 2.4 kms and other electrical installations were damaged and more than 300 trees were uprooted or fallen due to the strong winds.

CESC Superintending Engineer K.M. Munigopalraju told 'Star of Mysore' that with more than 300 trees getting uprooted on Sunday night, the CESC has appealed the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) to remove all dried, hollow and dead trees in the city as a safety measure.

Noting that underground (UG) cable laying works is under progress in the city, he said that the CESC has appealed the MCC to install utility ducts, which is very vital for the laying of UG cables.

Maintaining that CESC has taken all precautionary measures, Munigopalraju said that outsourced workers have been engaged for restoration of fallen electric poles and all measures have been taken to ensure uninterrupted power supply.

Stating that dried and dead trees pose a threat to power cables, he said that it is also important to take up regular trimming of roadside trees so that the branches do not come in the way of overhead power lines.

The MCC and CESC authorities are engaged in clearing the fallen trees and snapped power cables, which has posed a challenge in some spots and the task is going on for the third day today, according to sources.

Sub-standard OFC junction boxes on roads causing problems to vehicle-users

Mysuru, May 8 (PM&KS)- Citizens and commuters who have faced major inconvenience on busy roads especially during peak hours due to incessant digging of roads across the city to lay Optical Fibre Cables (OFCs) by agencies attached to private telecom companies earlier are now facing a lot of problems while travelling as the earth around OFC junction boxes are caving-in thus exposing the sub-standard works undertaken by the private agencies.

The collapsed portion around the OFC junction boxes installed on one of the roads in city.

These sub-standard works are ready to snuff out lives and cause injuries to unsuspecting motorists especially two-wheeler riders, who may ride over these junction boxes. This shows the negligence on the part of private telecom operators, which had undertaken such sub-standard works and a question also arises as to why the MCC has not taken any action against them.

Pointing out that the concerned MCC Zonal Officials should have been present when the private telecom operators undertook the works, the public have alleged that negligence by the concerned MCC officials by not being present at the spot had led to such sub-standard works.

After installing the junction boxes, the portion around the junction box must be closed fully to retain the original shape by using jelly stones and asphalt. But this has not done resulting in gaping holes and uneven surfaces around the junction boxes.

On some roads, the covers of the junction boxes are above the road, while on some road they are below the road level and the motorists cannot make this out till they come near. Incidents of two-wheeler riders trying to avoid these junction boxes and sustaining injuries after falling down have also taken place.

Though such incidents have taken place, the private telecom operators nor the civic body have bothered to set them right. It is time for the MCC to take suitable steps and get the problem solved at the earliest before any fatal incidents take place

VOICE OF THE READER

Annual tax collection by MCC and MUDA: Stray thoughts

Sir,

Many readers have voiced their concern on social distancing when MCC or MUDA open up their counters for tax collection. Till date there is no input from these two organisations on the issue of social distancing.

A glaring example we saw when liquor shops opened on May 4. Social distance went to tail spin. Here it was only across the counter purchase. Whereas for tax collection, a two page form is filled along with a three page cash receipt. A person has to stand in queue for getting the form filled and a never-ending queue to pay cash at the bank counter.

It is our earnest request that the authorities make arrangement for online mode of payment to avoid people getting pushed and harassed. Will our officials respond?

— A.V. Prasanna
on e-mail

Mysuru
7.5.2020

Lockdown rule violations:
Rs. 78,000 fine collected in 43 cases

Mysuru, May 8 (RK&KS)- Mysuru Traffic Police, who have registered 43 cases against those flouting COVID-19 lockdown rules by moving around unnecessarily, have collected a total of Rs. 78,000 fine in a single day on Wednesday.

Assistant Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Sandesh Kumar said that as Mysuru City is in the Red Zone, the lockdown has been extended with a few relaxations. Though movement of public in their vehicles for purchase of essential commodities is permitted till 12 noon, the public were seen moving around in their vehicles after 12 noon thus violating the lockdown order.

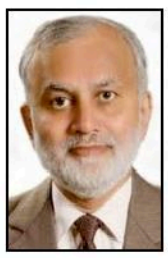
On Wednesday, the Traffic Police conducted an operation against the violators, registered 43 cases and collected a total of Rs. 78,000 fine in a single day, ACP Sandesh Kumar added.

Continuing, the ACP said that there is a restriction on unnecessary movement of vehicles after 12 noon, but still many are found moving around without valid reasons and hence Traffic Police personnel of Devaraja, Krishnaraja, V.V. Puram, Narasimharaja and Siddarthanagar Traffic Police Stations are conducting operations in their jurisdictions.

Apart from doctors, pourakarmikas, those delivering food from hotels, Government officials and staff, farmers, media representatives and ASHA workers, no one is permitted to travel on city roads. The public are allowed to purchase groceries, milk, fruits and vegetables, medicines and other essential items before 12 noon and after 12 noon the public should avail the services only in shops close to their residence by walking and not to travel in vehicles, ACP Sandesh Kumar said.

Appointed as Karnataka Science and Technology Academy Chairman

Bengaluru, May 8- Distinguished Scientist Prof. S. Ayyappan has been appointed as the Chairman of Karnataka Science and Technology Academy (KSTA) for a three-year period.


Prof. Ayyappan

The KSTA, an autonomous organisation under the Department of Science and Technology, was established by the Government of Karnataka in July 2005 under the Chairmanship of renowned Space Scientist and Padma Vibhushan awardee late Prof. U. R. Rao, who was also the former Chairman of ISRO.

The Karnataka Government, which appoints the Chairman and Members of the Academy once in three years, recently reconstituted the Governing Council and appointed Prof. Ayyappan as Chairman with 13 members comprising eminent educationists, renowned scientists and senior administrators, an official press release said.

Prof. Ayyappan is the former Director-General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Secretary to Government, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Chancellor of Central Agricultural University, Manipur.

Online Music Concerts by Ganabharathi tomorrow

Mysuru, May 8- As Music Sabhas are not able to arrange any concerts with the COVID-19 lockdown in place, in an effort to reach out to the art and music-lovers, Ganabharathi is arranging online programmes from 6 pm onwards on specified days, according to a press release from Dr. C.G. Narasimhan, President, Ganabharathi.

Interested may log on to the facebook link of Ganabharathi https://www.facebook.com/ganabharati/

Events Tomorrow (May 9)

6 pm: Vocal Recital by Vid. Medha Manjunath.

6.30 pm: Sarod Recital by Vid. Sanchin Hampe.

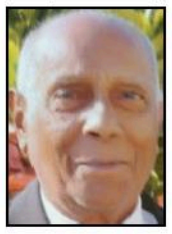
7 pm: Tabla Solo by Vid. Bhimashankar.

For details, contact A. Radhesh on Mob: 94480-51564.

Obituary

Stephen Lawrence

Mysuru, May 8- Stephen Lawrence (87), an ex-Serviceman and a resident of Srirampura 2nd Stage in city, passed away at a private hospital this morning following brief illness.



He leaves behind his wife Iris Lawrence, two sons, daughters-in-law, grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends.

Funeral took place at St. Bartholomew's Cemetery on Mysuru-Bengaluru Road here today.

Rachamma Venkatappa

Rachamma Venkatappa (65), a resident of Brindavan Layout 1st Stage, 7th Cross, passed away yesterday.

She leaves behind a son, two daughters, grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at Kumbarakoppal burial ground this evening, according to family sources.

COVID-19 Mobile Clinics now reduced to five

12,135 people screened till date with 12 teams serving people at their doorstep each day

Health Screening has been completed in all the Wards. Hence, from May 7, only five Mobile Clinics will be at work. Till now, there were 12 Mobile units with a Doctor in each unit, now on there will be two doctors in each of the five units. Health camps will be conducted at 5 places till May 17.

—Dr. Nagaraju, MCC Health Officer

Mysuru, May 8 (PM&BNR)- So far a total of 12,135 people have benefitted from the Mobile Clinics launched by District Administration to provide medical services at their doorstep.

The free facility, which was provided by four teams (Mobile Clinics) on Apr.27 and 28, was officially launched on Apr.29 with 9 teams working on the day of the formal launch. The following day, mobile units were increased to 12.

However, from yesterday (May 7), only five Mobile Clinics are providing services as screening is complete in almost all the Wards in Mysuru.

Till yesterday, a total of 12,135 people have benefitted from these health camps. Today (May 8), Mobile Clinics will conduct health camps at Mandakalli, Subbarayanakere, Nandagokula-Gokulam, Sewage Farm-Vidyaranyapuram and Sharadadevinagar. Tomorrow (May 9), mobile units will be stationed at Kuvempunagar K-Block, Janatanagar, Muneshwaranagar-Udayagiri, Kumbarakoppal and Kalyanagiri.

Trust donates PPE kits worth Rs. 15 lakh

District Minister S.T. Somashekar handing over the PPE kits donated by Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled to MMC&RI Dean and Director Dr. C.P. Nanjaraj this morning as MP Pratap Simha, MLAs L. Nagendra and C.S. Niranjan Kumar, H.V. Rajeev, Samarthanam Trust's Mahantesh G. Kivadasannavar, Vasanti Savanur and others look on.

Mysuru, May 8 (RKB&KS)- District Minister S.T. Somashekar handed over 300 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits worth Rs. 15 lakh donated by Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled to MMC&RI Dean and Director Dr. C.P. Nanjaraj this morning. Each PPE kit contained three-ply face mask, Nitrile Gloves and sanitisers, to be distributed among the medical staff of K.R. Hospital and Jayadeva Hospital in city. Samarthanam Trust has so far donated PPE kits worth Rs. 1 crore to the Health Department to be distributed to various hospitals.

MP Pratap Simha, MLAs L. Nagendra and Niranjan Kumar, District Co-op. Union President H.V. Rajeev, Trust Managing Trustee Mahantesh G. Kivadasannavar, Trustee Vasanti Savanur, Trust's Media Incharge Niranjan, Devaraju, Shivaraju and others were present.

Resident Doctors hold silent candle light protest

"Instead of showering flower petals on us, it would be helpful if we are supported in our studies by a hike in the stipend"

Mysuru, May 8 (MK&BNR)- In continuation of their protest seeking hike in stipend, Resident Doctors (MD/ MS students), working at K.R., Chelu-vamba and PKTB Hospitals, attached to Mysore Medical College and Research Institute (MMC&RI) and COVID Hospital, yesterday staged a silent candle light protest sporting a black band around their arms.

It may be mentioned here that the Resident Doctors, expressing support to the State-wide protest call given by Karnataka Association of Resident Doctors, wore black arm band while at work on May 5 and 6.

Resident Doctors, who gathered at MMC&RI, expressed anger against the Govt. by stating 'Residents Doctors have more work and less pay', 'Clapping and showering flowers will not fill stomach, also need good pay.'

MMC&RI RDA (Resident Doctors Association) President Dr. Ronak Hameed, who spoke to 'SOM' said: "Though we have been demanding hike in the stipend for the past three years, Government has not responded. But every year, academic fee is increased. While academic fee is Rs.1.30 lakh, stipend is just Rs.30,000 per month. It has become difficult to get Medical Education as even books are priced high."

Stating that many Resident Doctors have even got married, he said that it is difficult to study and also run a family in the stipend given now.

"We have been working in K.R. Hospital and COVID Hospital as well and we are doing our best to contain the pandemic. For our work, instead of showering flowers on us, it would be helpful if we are supported in our studies by providing hike in the stipend," he said and urged the Government to send an order in this regard at the earliest.

MMC&RI RDA Vice-President Dr. D.N. Puneeth, Dr. Krishnapal Singh, Dr. Bharat, Dr. Manohar, Dr. Praveen and Dr. Nandan were present. The Resident Doctors, both at MMC&RI and COVID Hospital, also offered condolences to the people who lost their lives in Visakhapatnam gas leak tragedy yesterday.

Cops chase chain-snatchers, pin them down in cinema style

Mysuru, May 8 (MK,KS&BCT)- With lockdown and movement restrictions till May 3, there was a long break in Mysuru city's crime scene especially in the chain-snatching front. With the movement of men and women gradually increasing with the easing of restrictions and with women venturing out of their houses wearing jewellery, chain-snatchers too have become suddenly active.

Despite heavy Police presence on the roads and barricades all around, two bike-borne youths targeted three women on city streets last evening. They executed their tasks soon after dusk set in yesterday but their luck ran out as the Police, who got wind of the incidents from alert public, chased the accused in a car and arrested them in cinema style. The Police have recovered 80 grams gold ornaments worth Rs. 3.2 lakh from the duo who have been identified as 23-year-old Maadu alias Madesh of Kumbarakoppal and 22-year-old Chethan of Hunjanakere in Srirangapatna taluk.

On the prowl targeting women, the accused, at about 7.45 pm, had snatched a 40-gram gold chain from one Asha near Clear Medi Radiant Hospital in Vijayanagar 3rd Stage. It is a narrow road and Asha was walking alone in the poorly-lit street.

Before Asha could realise what was happening to her, her gold chain was snatched and the duo sped away in the Pulsar bike. Next, the duo proceeded towards Hinkal and snatched a 40-gram gold chain from one Pushpalatha when she was riding a scooter near Hinkal Government School at about 8.30 pm.

The bike rider cleverly approached Pushpalatha's scooter while the pillion rider yanked off her chain and sped away. Not stopping at this, the accused also tried to snatch the gold chain of one Jagadamba in Mahadeshwara Layout. However, they were unsuccessful.

Later, the crime reached Vijayanagar Police sleuths who wasted no time and took a car to chase the accused. They were successful in pinning down the accused near the Corporation Bank on Vijayanagar 1st Stage at about 9.30 pm. The Police, who had definite clues about the accused and based on the description provided by the victims, nabbed them.

Vijayanagar Inspector Balakrishna told 'Star of Mysore' that the accused were habitual offenders and were involved in nearly 20 cases. He further said that accused Chethan was an expert bike rider especially Pulsar bike. He knew to ride the bike on narrow stretches and was able to control the vehicle very well, even with a pillion rider.

The Inspector said that the accused would be produced before a Magistrate and the Police would seek their custody for further investigation. Three different vehicle registration number plates, chilli powder and knives have been recovered from the duo.

Register online for Blood Donation Drive by K.R. Hospital

Mysuru, May 8- The Blood Bank of KR Hospital, Mysuru, which caters to the health needs of the most underprivileged and destitute patients in the district, is facing severe shortage of blood due to COVID lockdown.

Mothers giving birth, victims of accidents, patients of cancer, patients undergoing emergency surgeries, young children with Thalassemia — several conditions make patients dependent on blood and blood components for survival. The lockdown has made it difficult to conduct blood donation camps and Blood Banks are running dry. As a result, the most helpless patients are unable to receive the required transfusions.

In order to fill up the depleted stocks of blood, K.R. Hospital, Mysuru, has taken an initiative to co-ordinate and bring willing people to the Blood Bank for blood donation.

To join this Blood Donation Drive, fill in the details by logging on to https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScQZ-D2EhGJmM9zde-4Vgu_bfN6P-JSI7Lg1kmswM6c_XP3zLRg/viewform

On filling this form

- You will be added to a list of blood donors.
- Volunteers will get in touch with you to dispense all necessary information regarding blood donation requirements.
- You will be allotted a time slot to donate blood.
- You will be provided an e-pass to travel to K.R. Hospital for blood donation.
- You get the opportunity to save lives during a global health crisis.

For details, contact Dr. Nehal on Mob: 98800-12727 or Dr. Nemichandra Mob: 89049-41806.

Co-op. Minister donates Rs. 85 lakh to CM's Relief Fund

Co-operation Minister S.T. Somashekar seen handing over the donations collected from all Co-operatives in the State to Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa in Bengaluru on Tuesday as Revenue Minister R. Ashok, Co-operation Department Additional Principal Secretary Nagalambikadevi and others look on.

Bengaluru, May 8- Co-operation and Mysuru District In-charge Minister S.T. Somashekar on Tuesday handed over cheques for Rs. 85 lakh to Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa towards Chief Minister's COVID-19 Relief Fund. The Minister has donated a total amount of Rs. 50.50 crore to the CM's Refief Fund collected from all Co-operatives in the State.

CM Yediyurappa, who lauded the efforts of Minister Somashekar said that the donations would be utilised for the service of the people.

Revenue Minister R. Ashok, Co-operation Department Additional Principal Secretary Nagalambikadevi and others were present.

Global Investors Meet in Mysuru later this year to promote industries in Tier-2 cities

- Large and Medium Scale Industries Minister Jagadish Shettar holds industry reps meeting in city
- Proposal sent to State and Central Governments for special package to MSMEs

Mysuru, May 8 (RK&DM)- The Industries Department has sent a proposal to the State and Central Governments for announcing a special package for the MSME Sector in the State, said Minister for Large and Medium Scale Industries Jagadish Shettar.

Speaking at a meeting of various Industrial bodies and Industrialists at ZP Hall here this morning, the Minister said that the State Government will do everything to address industrial issues in the post COVID-19 scenario. Soon as the meeting began, representatives of Industrial bodies led by Mysore Industries Association (MIA) President Vasu, who is also a former MLA, presented a memorandum containing their charter of demands to the Minister.

The demands included exemption of MMD charges in power bills (2months) for all Industries, a 50 percent discount in Industrial Property Tax (2019-20), advancement of working capital by KSFC and other financial Institutions at half the interest rates, immediate release of subsidy for Industries and waiver of EMD Deposits for Industrial purchases and procurements among others.

Priority to Tier-2 cities

Speaking after receiving the memorandum, Jagadish Shettar said that the Karnataka Government is giving priority to Tier-2 cities for promotion of Industries and has proposed to hold a Global Investors Conference in Mysuru later this year in order to attract Industrial giants from across the globe to set up Industries in Tier-2 cities like Mysuru.

Stating that MNCs which prefer Karnataka for setting up industries in the coming months after translocating from China and other countries will be awarded, Shettar said that the State will do everything needed for attracting industrialists from all parts of the globe.

Lauding the district administration for successfully preventing the spread of Coronavirus, he said that factory owners should convince migrant workers not to leave the State by reassuring them on the advantages that they have in working here. However, migrant workers cannot be forced to stay put here as they too have their family bondage in their native places, he said and added that Industries now are free to function by following a rotational policy among their workers in keeping with the 50 percent cap.

Asserting that the ban on Industrial transportation has been relaxed to a large extent, he said that the Government is considering amendment to the Labour Act in respect of wages as Small Scale Industries were finding it too difficult to adhere to some of the provisions of the Act.

Noting that he has come to know that only 25 percent of the industries have opened post-lockdown relaxations in Mysuru, Shettar said that the Government will extend all possible help for the revival of MSME Sector which is hard hit by the nationwide lockdown.

On gas tragedy

On Visakhapatnam gas leak mishap, he said that Industries should ensure proper safety and precautionary measures at workplaces. Taking serious note of the incident, the Chief Minister has advised Industry bodies to give utmost priority for safety measures, he added.

Referring to Nanjangud's Jubilant Generics, the cluster centre of COVID-19 in the district, he said that the Government will take the right decision at the right time on the restart of the factory.

Reiterating that the Government was committed for safeguarding the Industrial sector in the post-lockdown scenario, he called upon Industrialists and entrepreneurs to convert the COVID-19 induced disadvantageous situation into an advantageous one by judiciously using all the facilities extended to them by the Government.

Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar, who also spoke, said that Industries must opt for self-certification in respect of standard safety and operating procedures in order to ensure the safety of workers.

District Minister S.T. Somasekhar presided over the meeting. MP Pratap Simha, MLAs S.A. Ramdas, L. Nagendra, B. Harshavardhan, G.T. Devegowda and C.S. Niranjan Kumar, MLCs Dharmasena and Sandesh Nagaraj, ZP President Parimala Shyam, CEO Prashant Kumar Mishra, SP C.B. Ryshyanth, MUDA Commissioner Dr. D.B. Natesh, MCC Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde, MIA Secretary Suresh Kumar Jain, former CII Mysuru Chairman N. Muthukumar, Industrialist N.H. Jayanth, Chandrashekar of Nanjangud and other officials were present.

SWR converts 320 Railway Coaches into COVID Care Centres

Transformed coaches to be placed at 14 Stations including Mysuru

Hubballi, May 8 (UNI)- Engineers, technicians, workers and supervisors of South Western Railway (SWR) have successfully converted 320 air-conditioned train coaches into Isolation Wards, providing a clean, sanitised and hygienic surroundings for COVID-19 patients to comfortably recover. The target set by the Railway Ministry to SWR was 314 but engineers have converted 320 coaches into COVID Care Centres.

A communication from SWR Office in Hubballi stated that these coaches will be kept ready at 14 stations and will be for the cases suspected or confirmed, and categorised into very mild, mild as per Ministry of Health and Family Welfare website. Separate coaches for suspected and confirmed cases of COVID-19 were being ensured to avoid cross infection.

The COVID Care Centres would be available in Mysuru, Bengaluru, Hubballi, Yeshwanthpur, Harihar, Shivamogga Town, Hosapet, Hassan, Arasikere, Bagalkot, Talaguppa, Vijayapura, Belagavi and Vasco-da-gama stations. The Mysuru Division Workshop had a target of completing 120 coaches while the Mysuru Depot had taken on the task of converting 18 coaches into COVID Care Centres.

As per standard operating procedure issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, each person would be assigned an individual cabin. If the situation warrants, up to two confirmed patients would be assigned a cabin, the statement further said.

Each coach can accommodate eight patients. The coaches are equipped with basic facilities needed as per medical guidelines. Provision has been made for charging points of mobiles and laptops. Mosquito nets with space for paramedics etc., have been ensured.

Middle berths of the coaches have been removed to ensure comfort and better space, plastic transparent air curtains have been affixed for isolation, screening, bottle holders have been placed in each compartment for holding medical equipment and the first cabin near bathroom have been provided with two plastic curtains transversely in the aisle so that the entry and exit to the entire eight-berth cabin is sealed off.

21 Kodagu Jawahar Navodaya students brought from Indore

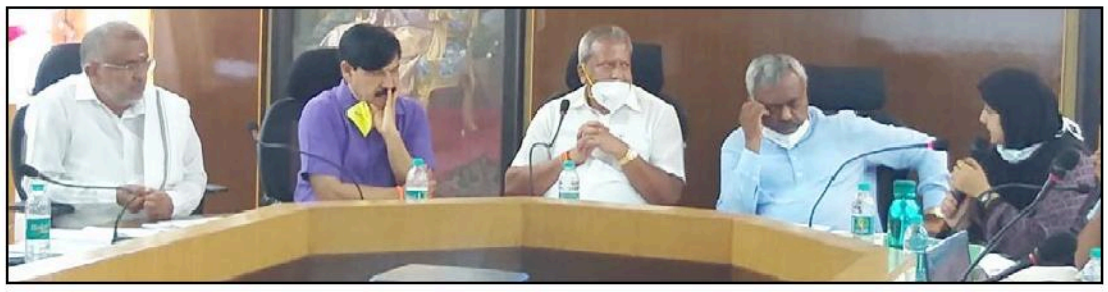
Madikeri, May 8- Parents of over 21 students studying at the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya at Galibeedu near Madikeri heaved a sigh of relief yesterday, as their children returned safely from Indore in Madhya Pradesh.

They had been to Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya at Manpur in Indore on a student exchange programme before the lockdown was enforced in the last week of March in the wake of Coronavirus pandemic. Also, as part of the exchange programme, over 24 students from the Jawahar Navodaya School in Indore had come to Madikeri and they too got stuck unable to go back to their homes in Madhya Pradesh.

With the coordination from the administrations in Kodagu and Indore, a decision was taken to ferry the students up to Kolhapur in Maharashtra from both places – Madikeri and Indore – and the respective school authorities would pick them midway. Permissions were sought from the respective State Governments.

Arrangements were made to transport the students till Kolhapur from where the Madikeri students were received and the Indore students were sent off. Accordingly, the students from the Madikeri School arrived yesterday. The students had left to their respective destinations in buses on May 5 after the lockdown was eased, facilitating the inter-State movement of stranded persons. Kodagu DHO Mohan said the students underwent a mandatory medical screening at their school.

Pay Property Tax till July end



(Continued from page 1)

MCC has not been able to collect taxes through its Zonal Offices as they have remained closed and even the online collection system was not implemented as promised earlier by the MCC as there was no approval from the Government.

There are 1,83,000 tax-payers in all 65 wards within MCC limits at present including 26,000 revenue properties and this number will increase by formation of new layouts across the city. Till March 20 this year, the MCC had collected Rs. 120 crore as taxes and the percentage stands at 85 percent.

Recently, MCC Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde had written to the Urban Development Ministry seeking a nod to provide time for the public to pay the pending taxes in full till the end of July with five percent rebate. But the Government has not replied to the letter so far. Now, the time has been extended till July end to pay taxes but there is no clarity on rebate offer.

MCC officers informed 'Star of Mysore' that the cash counters at all the nine Zonal Offices have been kept open from May 5 where people can still pay taxes after following social distancing norms.

Akrama-Sakrama Scheme

Minister Byrathi Basavaraj told the meeting that the State Government has planned to introduce Akrama-Sakrama Scheme in Mysuru too to regularise unauthorised properties as in Bengaluru.

Akrama-Sakrama is a scheme to regularise illegal buildings to generate additional revenue in the light of the economic crisis created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Urban Development Department has prepared new guidelines for regularisation of illegal buildings. Laws on regularisation of unauthorised properties have been reframed after studying the laws framed in other States, the Minister said.

For unauthorised houses, double the tax would have to be paid for regularisation. The law permits imposition of 6 percent penalty on buildings that have violations of up to 50 percent. Above that, the Government has the power to levy a fine of up to 25 percent of the market price for regularisation of the construction.

MUDA to form six new layouts shortly

(Continued from page 1)

Questioning the officials on why necessary measures have not been taken for approval of layouts by the Government, they said that there are over 88,000 residential site applications pending in MUDA since 1996.

MUDA Commissioner Dr. D.B. Natesh explained the details regarding the proposal for formation of new layouts.

Pointing out that MUDA has identified 9,000 vacant sites in different localities coming under its jurisdiction, he said that a decision will be taken on the allotment of these sites after holding talks with the CM. The MUDA has so far allotted over 44,000 residential sites, he added.

Highlighting the measures taken for earning revenues, Natesh said that the MUDA is expecting to rake in Rs. 925 crore by allotment of residential plots in R.T. Nagar Second Stage and auction of Intermediate sites, commercial sites, C.A. sites and corner sites across the city.

He further said that a total of 28 acres of land has been identified in different localities of the city for construction of residential complexes for economically backward sections.

Street lights on Ring Road

MP Pratap Simha said that many street lights on Ring Road had become dysfunctional, leading to accidents and crimes such as robbery. Also, many liquor shops have come up along the road which is a matter of concern, he pointed out.

Chamundeshwari MLA G.T. Devegowda wanted MUDA to pay street light power bills in private layouts. Although MUDA has been collecting taxes from residents of private layouts, it had failed to pay power bills in respect of street lights, the MLA said that instead, the Residents' Welfare Associations have been paying power bills, which is unfair. Either the MUDA or layout developers should pay the bill, he maintained.

City Planning Member B.N. Girish, Nanjangud MLA B. Harshavardhan, MLC Sandesh Nagaraj, DC Abhiram G. Sankar, MCC Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde and others were present.

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Petty fight leads to one murder and one revenge killing

(Continued from page 1)

The duo called the cop at 7.30 pm yesterday near Huliyamma Temple and took him to a place near the water tank close to Gayathripuram Church and showed Abhishek's body. Due to Police restriction, the murder had not come to light as there was very less movement of people.

The Gayathripuram Church area comes under Nazarbad Police limits and the Udayagiri Station Constable informed the Nazarbad Police and a team of Nazarbad Inspector Srikanth, ACP Shashidhar and Udayagiri Inspector Poonacha visited the spot and conducted mahazar and shifted the body to MMC&RI mortuary. The two accused were later formally arrested.

Satish killers held

Meanwhile, the Police who were on a manhunt to nab Satish's alleged killers Madhu and Kiran, managed to net them within 12 hours of the crime. 20-year-old Madhu and 22-year-old Kiran were construction workers and residents of Valmiki Road in Kyathamaranahalli.

The Police arrested them at T. Narasipur on Tuesday morning. Udayagiri Inspector Poonacha had constituted a team led by Sub-Inspector Jayakeerthi to trace the accused. Following mobile phone tower location of the accused, the Police team zeroed in on the accused in T. Narasipur.

During interrogation, the accused confessed to the crime. Police said that the accused revealed to them that on Monday at about 8.30 pm, Satish was standing with his bike and blocked the road and this had led to a heated argument, resulting in murder.

Madhu and Kiran were produced before the Magistrate on Wednesday afternoon, who remanded them to judicial custody. What began as a petty argument resulted in two murders and four youths are now cooling their heels in jail.

COVID-19 UPDATE

MYSURU

Persons observed till date	:	4,762
Persons who have completed 14 days' isolation	:	4,754
Persons isolated in home for 14 days	:	1
Persons isolated in hospital for active cases	:	7
Total samples tested	:	4,667
Samples found negative	:	4,677
Samples found positive (cumulative)	:	90
Persons cured / discharged	:	83
Death toll so far in Mysuru	:	0

MANDYA

Total positive cases in Mandya	:	28
Persons cured / discharged	:	11
Death toll so far in Mandya	:	0

KARNATAKA & INDIA

Total positive cases in Karnataka	:	753
Persons cured / discharged	:	376
Death toll so far in Karnataka	:	30
Total active cases in India	:	37,916
Persons cured / discharged	:	16,539
Death toll so far in India	:	1,886

(Note: Some of the figures of Mysuru are as on May 7. Media bulletin for May 8 not available)

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